

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Remarks about the amendments

The amendments to claims 1 and 11 incorporate the limitations previously found in claims 19 and 20. Claims 19 and 20 have therefore been cancelled.

2. Response to the rejection

The Claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Asai in view of Ishihata.

The invention relates to ignition resistant polymeric composites. Polymer composites used in the electronics industry (e.g. as casing of cell phone) must pass the UL-94 flame retardancy test. To comply with these standards, the polymers typically have non-halogenated fire retardants such as phosphates added to the material. However, the effective amount of such fire retardants weakens the mechanical properties and increases the cost of such composites. Thus, the problem the inventors were seeking to solve was to get good flame resistance while avoiding the drawbacks arising from use of conventional flame retardants in conventional amounts to achieve that flame resistance. Applicants discovered that they could make articles that passed the UL-94 flame retardancy test while using substantially less flame retardant than is normally required to pass the test. Applicants accomplished this by using relatively low amounts of flame retardant in combination with an organosilicon layer adhered to the surface of the article.

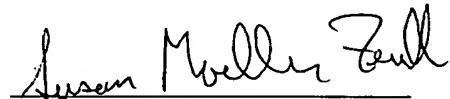
Asai teaches a polymeric article having an organosilicon coating used to improve antistatic properties. Asai contains a generic reference to the use of "conventional additives and processing aids including . . . flame retardants . . ." Clearly, Asai does not teach or suggest that those flame retardants be used in other than conventional amounts. Ishihata teaches a resin composition of polycarbonate,

styrene based resin, or polycarbonate/polyester combination and a reinforcing filler. Ishihata teaches that any of the known flame retardants could be used in this resin composition and mentions that amounts of from 0.1 to 25 parts by weight based on weight of resin are preferably used. Ishihata acknowledges that the degree of flame retardancy will vary based on amount of flame retardancy. Thus, a skilled worker reading Ishihata would not expect low amounts of flame retardant to achieve a pass on the UL-94 test. In summary, nothing in either of these references teaches that a UL 94 flame retardancy would be achieved by the combination of an organosilicate coating on the composition in combination with low amounts of fire retardant. Thus, claim 1 is not obvious over these references.

The Office Action states that Asai's articles would have inherently met the present limitations including the UL-94 test. Applicants note that Asai does not teach the limitations of the present invention. Thus, Asai's article does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention. More importantly, assuming for sake of argument that Asai's articles which used conventional amounts of flame retardant met the UL-94 test, that is irrelevant to whether the present invention which surprisingly achieve a passing UL-94 test with low amounts of flame retardant is obvious or not.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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